

MWES News Week of 4-4-2022

Important Dates

April 1st - 3 Hour Early Dismissal for Students/end of qtr 3 (dismiss at 12:15 pm)

April 7th - PTA Restaurant Night at EC Diner 3pm-11pm

April 8th - Report Cards available in Synergy

April 11th - 18th - Spring Break Schools Closed (return 4/19)

April 22nd - Spirit Day: Wacky Hair Day AND Duck Dash Day!!

April 27th - 3 Hour Early Dismissal for Students (dismiss at 12:15 pm)

Monday, May 2nd -will now be a Professional Learning Day - **Schools Closed for Students**

Tuesday, May 3rd - will now be a regular school day.

Thursday, May 12th - Rising 6th Graders Visit Middle Schools 10-11:30 am

Monday, May 30th - Schools and Offices Closed for Memorial Day

A Note From Our Administrators

Dear MWES Parents and Guardians,

You may have wondered, what do teachers really do on a Professional Development Day?

From a parent's perspective, Professional Development days for teachers may mean having to arrange for childcare or taking a day off from work. So, what do teachers actually do on these PD days, anyway?

During a regular school day, teachers are providing quality instruction to your children based on their individual needs. They spend time observing how your child best acquires new information, how he/she interacts with peers, and takes note of which skills may require more practice or follow-up instruction. Teachers use their planning time to respond to emails from parents and colleagues, return phone calls, meet with

parents, prepare materials and plan for instruction, attend meetings, grade papers and assessments, enter data, complete report cards, eat lunch, and use the restroom. It is challenging, to say the least, to complete all of these professional responsibilities within the time available in the regular work week. In fact, many teachers end up taking work home, and working outside of allotted work hours.

Professional Development days were created to allow teachers time to plan collaboratively with colleagues and share best practices. These days offer time for administrators to share initiatives from central office, address questions and concerns, and communicate with staff as a whole. PD days are sometimes used for trainings or meetings located outside of the school building that are tailored toward specific subject areas and grade levels, marking report cards at the end of the marking period, and/or discussing concerns about specific children with school specialists and related service providers.

Hopefully, this offers a snapshot of what teachers are really doing on PD days, and why staff needs a student-free day from time-to-time. At MWES, we will continue to work hard to prepare to meet the needs of your children every day.

Fondly,

Carol DeBord and Jennifer Zinn

Lost and Found

Please encourage your student(s) to look at the lost and found tables in the front lobby. We will be donating unclaimed items after Spring Break.

New Information

Public Library Summer Reading Program

[Information about Summer Reading promotion](#) with the Howard County Library System is now available. All school librarians received this information on March 23. Please direct questions to your school librarian or to Melissa Daggett.

April 28th is National “Poem in Your Pocket Day.”

On this day, students and staff are encouraged to bring in a poem from home or write a poem down and place the poem in their pocket. The students will read and share with their classmates and staff. We will be providing additional poems to grade levels for students who need a poem for that day.

Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey

Parents of students receiving special education services are encouraged to complete a Maryland State Department of Education survey, which will help guide efforts to improve special education and related services. Complete and return a hard copy recently mailed from MSDE to parents, or complete the survey online at www.mdparentsurvey.com no later than May 27.

Important Reminders From Past Newsletters

Repeated Information [Click Here](#)

Volunteer Requirements

Volunteers and Visitors must complete both trainings (print certificate for each and bring to school during first visit or email to Christina Shumaker christina_shumaker@hcpss.org)

[Child Abuse Training](#)

[Child Abuse Certificate](#)

[Confidentiality Training](#)

[Confidentiality Certificate](#)

BOWIE BAYSOX READING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Back by popular demand! “Read & Hit A Home Run” Reading Program! Read 4 books and get 2 free tickets to the Howard County Reading Night with the Bowie Baysox on Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 6:35 pm.

This reading incentive challenge will take place from April 1, 2022 to April 27, 2022. Your child will keep track of their books read with a class reading log. Books read at home and at school count, so after your child reads a book be sure to have them tell their homeroom teacher! Tickets and specific details about the game will be shared closer to the date. If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Miskimins natalie_miskimins@hcpss.org.

Learning Together Pre-Kindergarten at Waverly ES

[click here](#)

From Our School Counselors

Ms. Heinlein (grades 1, 2, 4 & 5) and Mrs. Salapata (grades K & 3) are here to support our students. If we can be of assistance to you or your child, please contact monica_heinlein@hcpss.org or christina_salapata@hcpss.org.

Upcoming Spirit Days

Before winter break, intermediate students were surveyed about their **spirit day preferences** and student leaders reviewed the responses.

Based on popular vote, student leaders identified the spirit days listed below.

Apr. 22 Wacky Hair Day

May 27 Dress Up Day

June 10 Hat Day

Essay Contest to Celebrate Ellicott City's 250th Anniversary

[Click Here for Information](#)

News From the Health Room

Updated Quarantine Isolation Procedures

[Click Here](#)

Howard County Health Department: Covid facts & testing locations

<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/covid-19>

Community News

Jazz @ the Ridge is Back!!

For the first time since 2019, the MRHS Big Band, Jazz Combo & MVMS Jazz Band will be rocking the stage with JAZZ!!

New this year — MRHS Jazz Madrigals & Vocal Ensemble and MVMS Jazz Choirs!

Thursday, April 7, 2022 @ 7pm

Tickets: \$7 each/\$20 per family

MRHS Commons & Auditorium:

Preshow with refreshments @ 6:30 in the Commons

7pm the show begins in the Auditorium

Refreshments served in the Commons at Intermission

Clothing Giveaway and Food Assistance

Please see the following [flyers](#) (English & Spanish) for the 4th Annual Long Reach High School Spring Clothing Giveaway on Saturday, April 2nd 9:00 - 11:00 AM. Line starts at 7:00 AM.

Spring Break is coming up April 11th -18th. Please remember the Howard County Food Bank (**9385 Gerwig Lane, Suite J Columbia, MD 21046 410-313-6185**) for families as appropriate.

GROCERY SHOPPING HOURS:

- Tuesday – 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. walk ins & appointments
- Wednesday – 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. walk ins welcome
- Thursday – 1 pm. – 4 p.m. walk ins & appointments

- Saturday – 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. appointments required

For more information refer to the following website: <https://cac-hc.org/food-assistance/>.

Additional information to support Basic Needs is located on the bottom of the [SST Resources for Students & Families](#) > RESOURCES BY GROUP NEED > [Basic Needs](#).

Marriotts Ridge High School Summer Camps

[registration website](#)

Mount Hebron Summer Camps

[Flier](#)

[registration website](#)

HC DrugFree Updates

FREE Parenting Classes:

HC DrugFree is pleased to present another series of this popular parenting class for Howard County parents, guardians, and grandparents starting March 30. This program will meet via Zoom for 5 classes (March 30, April 6, 27, & May 4, 11) from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Adults should plan to attend all 5 sessions. The class is free, but registration is required: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ParentingClassReg> For more information: Email Parenting@HCDrugFree.org, visit www.hcdrugfree.org or view [downloadable flyer](#)

Medication and Sharps Drive-thru Collection:

HC DrugFree's next drive-thru prescription and over-the-counter medication and sharps (needles, syringes and EpiPens) collection will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot in Columbia. Medication will be guarded and transported by the Howard County Police and the DEA. For more information visit www.hcdrugfree.org or email Admin@hcdrugfree.org

2022 Summer Programs Registration

[Online enrollment requests for currently enrolled HCPSS students](#) will reopen Tuesday, March 1 at 6 p.m. for the following programs:

- BSAP Summer Institute (Entering Grades K–9)
- Gifted and Talented Summer Institutes for Talent Development (Entering Grades 1–8)
- Innovative Pathways High School (Entering Grade 9 and Current Grades 9–12)
- STARTALK Chinese Language Summer Camp (Grades 3–8)

Enrollment requests for tuition-based programs can be made by a parent, guardian, school counselor or achievement liaison online via HCPSS Connect Synergy.

Sensory-Friendly Sundays @ Robinson Nature Center

[Click Here for Information](#)

Howard County Conservancy Summer Camp

[Click Here for Flier](#)

In response to community requests for resources, HCPSS' new [Community News and Programs](#) website makes it easy for families to find educational and recreational

resources, events and after-school programs beyond the school day by non-profit organizations.”

Community organizations requesting their announcements be shared in school newsletters should visit community-programs.hcpss.org for more information. Questions should be directed to the Public Information Office at publicinfo@hcpss.org.